

*Dendromus albifacies* Gunning & Roberts, Ann. Transvaal Mus. iii. p. 112, 1911: Villa Pereira, Borør, and *Dendromus aureicuspis* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. p. 26, 1915: Usagara are synonyms.

#### A NEW WEAVER.

*Ploceus* [*Othyphantes*] *baglafaecht alexanderi*, subsp. nov.

Closely resembling *P. b. baglafaecht* and *P. b. neumanni*, recently described by Mr. Bannerman from the Cameroon-Nigerian boundary, but considerably smaller than either, wing 77 mm. in the only example available; crown pale yellow without any indication of orange wash, back slightly greyer in tone, and underparts of a slightly less bright yellow; as in *P. b. neumanni* the hinder half of the underparts is a dull white.

*Measurements.* Length [in skin] 150 mm.; wing 77; tail 56; tarsus 25; culmen 16.

*Type* and only example in the British Museum obtained at Gudima, Iri or Ira River, near Vankerchovenville, in the north-east corner of the Belgian Congo, on 3<sup>d</sup> Sept. 1906, by Captain Boyd Alexander. Reg. No. 1911.12.23.3682. /5

The finding of this Weaver partially closes the gap between the typical race, confined to the Abyssinian plateau, and *P. b. neumanni* already mentioned. Alexander mentions in his 'From the Niger to the Nile,' vol. ii. pp. 332-333, that, when at Gudima, he climbed a neighbouring hill to a height of about 4000 ft., whence he could see to the eastwards the hills of the Nile, so that like the other members of the group this form is also a bird of the higher altitudes.

#### THE SÃO THOMÉ WEAVER.

This curious-looking Weaver is no doubt a member of the genus *Ploceus* in its widest sense, but it is very distinct from any other member of the genus. It was placed in *Sycobius* by Hartlaub, its original describer, and subsequently in *Anaplectes*, *Heterhyphantes*, and *Sharpia* (now *Notiospiza*) by Reichenbach, Sharpe, Reichenow, and Shelley. It cannot be

claimed that it is related to any of these. The bill is long and slender, somewhat like that of *Ploceus (Icteropsis) pelzelni*; it has curious whitish tips to the coverts, forming a double bar, which remind one of *Sharpia (Notiospiza)*, but in other respects it is quite unlike that rare Angolan species, and I see no other course, in spite of Dr. Hartert's remarks (Nov. Zool. xiv. 1907, p. 494), except to propose for it a new subgeneric name,

**Thomasophantes**, subgen. nov.,

with type *Sycobius sancti-thomæ* Hartl.

#### THE AFRICAN WEAVERS OF THE GENUS *PLOCEUS*.

Since the appearance of Reichenow's (1904) and Shelley's (1905) account of the African Weavers, the only contributions to the difficult question of the subdivision of the very large genus *Ploceus* is that of Chapin (Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. xxxviii. 1917, pp. 243-280) and Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. viii. 1922, pp. 268-271), but neither of these authors appears to have had sufficient material at their disposal to arrive at final conclusions.

I am not at all satisfied with my own results, but venture to give below a list of such subgenera as appear to me to be useful for the more convenient division of the comprehensive genus *Ploceus*. For those who prefer to do so, these can be treated as distinct genera. With the genera are given a list of species (but not subspecies) in each.

#### SYMPLECTES Swains., 1837.

Type. *Ploceus bicolor* Vieill.

Synonym. *Sycobrotus* Cab., 1851.

Species. *bicolor* Vieill.

#### PHORMOPLECTES Reichw., 1903.

Type. *Sycobrotus insignis* Sharpe.

Species. *insignis* Sharpe; *dorsomaculatus* Reichw.